Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begins on Page 1, line 6 and carries over to Page 2, line 5 with

the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

— The present invention is related to the following commonly-assigned co-pending

applications, which were filed concurrently herewith and which are hereby incorporated herein

by reference: U. S. ~~Patent _____ (serial number 10/ _____), titled~~ Patent 7,005,988 (serial

number 10/665,282), titled "Using Radio Frequency Identification to Detect and/or Prevent Theft

and Shoplifting"; U. S. Patent _____ (serial number 10/666,483), titled ~~number 10/ _____),~~

~~titled~~ "Using Radio Frequency Identification with Customer Loyalty Cards to Detect and/or

Prevent Theft and Shoplifting"; U. S. Patent 7,012,528 (serial number 10/666,703), titled ~~Patent~~

~~_____ (serial number 10/ _____), titled~~ "Using Radio Frequency Identification with

Transaction-Specific Correlator Values Written on Transaction Receipts to Detect and/or Prevent

Theft and Shoplifting"; and U. S. Patent _____ (serial number 10/666,287), titled ~~number~~

~~10/ _____), titled~~ "Using Radio Frequency Identification with Transaction-Specific Correlator

Values to Detect and/or Prevent Theft and Shoplifting". --

Please replace the paragraph that begins on Page 11, line 13 and carries over to Page 12, line 3

with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

— A shopper selects some number of items, represented by element 300 in Fig. 3A, and

presents these items for checkout at a point of sale (Block 400 of Fig. 4A). At the point of sale,

an RFID reader 305 reads an RFID-readable identifier borne on each item presented for purchase

(Block 405). A checksum generation component 310 (which may be embodied within the RFID

Serial No. 10/666,700   -2-   RSW920030197US1

reader) generates a checksum of data from the RFID-readable ~~identifier~~ identifiers (Block 410).

The data used in generating the checksum may comprise the item's EPC, its SKU, its unique

item serial number, some combination thereof, or any other data or data combination from the

RFID tag, provided that the data used for each particular item serves to identify that item. (Any

suitable checksum algorithm may be used without deviating from the inventive concepts of the

present invention.) --

Please replace the paragraph on Page 17, lines 4 - 17 with the following marked-up replacement

paragraph:

-- It may happen that a shopper buys items from more than one merchant, and therefore

has some items in his possession that have RFID tags matching the correlator on the sales receipt

as well as other items that do not have this correlator. Or, the shopper may have items in his

possession that were purchased from this merchant at an earlier time. Such items will therefore

not have a correlator matching the correlator on the present sales receipt. A preferred approach

for dealing with this situation is for the retailer to maintain a database of this merchant's

previously-generated correlators ~~correlators~~, and to include a comparison against values in this

database prior to concluding that a non-match (Block 880 of Fig. 8B) is a potential theft. For

example, if a shopper has an item with a correlator that does not match his receipt, perhaps this is

a correlator generated by the retailer next door. In this case, the correlator will not be found in

the current retailer's database, and will not be considered as a theft. On the other hand, if an item

possessed by the shopper has a correlator that does not match his receipt but this item's correlator

is found in the correlator database, then this is an item previously purchased from this merchant

Serial No. 10/666,700   -3-   RSW920030197US1

(and it is not a theft). --

Please replace the paragraph on Page 18, lines 4 - 20 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- In this fourth preferred embodiment, when the shopper presents his items 930 for purchase (Block [[800]] 1000), the correlator is generated (Block 1010) and written (Block 1020) by the RFID writer 920 into the RFID tag of each purchased item 930. When the shopper exits the premises, as depicted in Figs. 9B and 10B, the merchandise 950 he is carrying passes an RFID reader 960 (Block 1050) which non-intrusively reads the correlators from the RFID tags (Block 1060). Now, however, a correlator comparing component 980 (which may be embodied within the RFID reader 960) makes a comparison (Block 1070) among the correlators of the various items. If the correlators all match each other (Block 1080), then this is not a theft (Block 1085). If any correlators are different, however, then a database 970 is preferably consulted to determine whether a non-matching correlator reflects a previous purchase (Block 1090). If so, then the shopper may have purchased this item from the retailer on an earlier date. For example, if the non-matching correlator is stored in the RFID tag of a clothing article which the shopper previously purchased from this retailer and is now wearing in the retailer's store, this is not a theft. However, if the RFID tag indicates that the item is from this retailer's inventory but no previous purchase of this item is recorded (including a current purchase which would have written a matching correlator in the item's RFID tag), then this is potentially an attempted theft (Block 1095) and the alarm unit 990 is preferably triggered. --

Serial No. 10/666,700   -4-   RSW920030197US1

Please replace the paragraph on Page 23, lines 1 - 19 with the following marked-up replacement

paragraph:

-- Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 09/790,104 (filed on Feb.

21, 2001; now U. S. Patent 7,000,834), entitled "Method to Address Security and Privacy Issues

of the Use of RFID Systems to Track Consumer Products", which was briefly discussed above,

discloses techniques to prevent global tracking of people and the items they have purchased

containing RFID tags, in addition to techniques for using RFID technology to prevent tampering

of product information stored in RFID tags and to prevent pricing mistakes made at the point of

sale. Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 09/847,889 (filed on May 3,

2001), entitled "Identification and Tracking of Persons Using RFID-Tagged Items", discloses

techniques for using RFID technology to identify or characterize people, based on the RFID tags

present in items being carried by that person at a point in time. If a prior-purchase database is

provided with information about which person bought particular uniquely-identified items in the

past, then the RFID tags may be used to locate information in the database that will identify the

person currently carrying the items. Otherwise, the person can be characterized based upon the

types of items he is currently carrying (as determined by reading the RFID tags of the items).

Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 10/~~~~~~ (filed 10/612,251 (filed on

July 2, 2003; now U. S. Patent 6,992,574), entitled "Object Matching via RFID", discloses

techniques for using RFID technology to track and match objects, when the RFID tags of these

objects have been programmed with data suitable for indicating that the items are in association

with one another. These commonly-assigned inventions are hereby incorporated herein by

reference as if set forth fully. --

Serial No. 10/666,700   -5-   RSW920030197US1